

July 28, 2011

**Remarks by Franz Hartmann, Executive Director, Toronto Environmental Alliance  
to the Executive Committee on the Core Services Review**

My name is Franz Hartmann. I am the Executive Director of the Toronto Environmental Alliance. We represent over 15,000 Torontonians –from all parts of the city- who want to build a greener Toronto for all.

I have a simple message: solving the city's financial problem by creating new, more severe problems in the future is not intelligent leadership.

Consider. The Mayor's consultants identify potential savings by cutting TTC services, in particular cutting late night service, Wheel Trans service and eliminating programs that reduce overcrowding.

This could save the TTC some money and make a very small dent in reducing the so-called \$700 million structural deficit. But it will create a host of new problems that have costs associated to them:

- Added strain on an already over-crowded system that keeps growing
- A two-tiered TTC that leaves those with disabilities or who work late night shift work either without transit service or having to pay a premium for a service others get for cheaper
- Potentially increased pollution as people switch from transit to cars
- Safety issues for women who rely on late night bus service

Solving one problem by creating a host of new ones is not intelligent leadership.

Next, the mayor's consultants want to eliminate the Toronto Atmospheric Fund, which receives NO money from the city and eliminating it would have no impact on reducing the city's so-called structural deficit.

Contrary to what the consultants say, the Toronto Atmospheric Fund offers a unique and important value proposition for the city – clean air – that has never cost the city taxpayers one penny in 20 years. In fact, the Toronto Atmospheric Fund has saved city taxpayers \$55 million a year by financing projects that reduce energy costs in city buildings, streetlights, and traffic lights. TAF helps city residents and businesses by investing in innovative projects that reduce energy use and bills and clean the air.

To be clear, the Toronto Atmospheric Fund costs the city nothing and saves the city money. Let me repeat: the Toronto Atmospheric Fund costs the city nothing and saves the city money. Eliminating it won't do anything to deal with the structural deficit facing the city. On the other hand, eliminating the Toronto Atmospheric Fund will compromise future energy efficiency savings, and there is a lot of energy waste we should be going

after, and will mean dirtier air for Torontonians. Instead of suggesting the Toronto Atmospheric Fund be eliminated, the Mayor's consultants should have suggested expanding it - using its endowment model, with no ongoing cost to the city- to secure ongoing savings and benefits for taxpayers through reducing energy use and cleaning the air.

For the past 10 days Torontonians have been telling Councillors that solving the city's financial problem by cutting a whole host of city services will only create a large number of new problems that, together, will make our financial problem seem minor. Please show intelligent leadership. Please listen to Torontonians and find solutions that don't create new problems.